

LAYNE ROSS LITTLE

Lecturer

Humanities and Religious Studies Dept., California State University, Sacramento
Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England

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EDUCATION:

2006

Ph.D. in South Asian Studies [Tamil], University of California, Berkeley

Bowl Full of Sky: The Contemporary Commodification of a Saint, Story-making and the Many Lives of the Siddha Bhogar

Dissertation Director: Prof. George L. Hart

2000

M.A. in South Asian Studies [Tamil], University of California, Berkeley

1997

B.U.S. [Magna Cum Laude] in South Asian Studies, University of Utah

B.A. in Asian Studies [Magna Cum Laude], University of Utah

Minor in Anthropology, University of Utah

SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION:

2013

Pali Language Intensive with Dr. Richard Gombrich, Mangala Institute, Berkeley

2007

Fourth International Workshop on Tamil Epigraphy, Sorbonne, Paris

Summer 1998

Tamil Language Intensive in Madurai, American Institute of Indian Studies

1995-1996

One Year Tamil Language Program in Madurai, University of Wisconsin, Madison

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Pre-Gupta Vaisnava iconography and numismatics in South and Southeast Asia

Examining Buddhist survivals in Tamil Siddha tradition

A history of the representation of Hinduism and Buddhism in American serialized adventure fiction, radio serials, film, pulps and comics from 1880-1968

Translation and annotation of the 2-4th century Tamil poem, *Tirumuruppatai* (In preparation for submission to Oxford University Press)

TEACHING SPECIALITIES

Religions of South Asia; Hinduism; Buddhism; Religion and Popular Culture; Art History (South Asia: Pre-Gupta and Gupta, Pallava, Numismatics); Visual Culture and Popular Religion; Folkloristics; Comparative Mythology (emphasis on Indo-European Myth); Religion in South India; Buddhism in South India; Early Tantra

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Spring 2017

1) Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

Hindu Festivals: Spring

2) Lecturer and Online Course Design, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England

Courses Offered

Hindu Temples

3) Instructor, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England

Courses Offered

Bhagavad Gita

4) Consultant Prometheus Television and The History Channel (Vitthala Temple of Hampi; Animals in Myth and Folklore)

5) Consultant Generate/Defy Media and The History Channel (Weapons of Medieval India)

Winter 2017

Instructor, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England (online)

Courses Offered

Bhagavad Gita

Fall 2016

1) Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

Religion of India

2) Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

History of Buddhism

3) Instructor, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England (online)

Courses Offered

Bhagavad Gita

4) Consultant Prometheus Television and The History Channel

Summer 2016

1) Instructor, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England (online)

Courses Offered

Bhagavad Gita

2) Instructor, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England (online)

Courses Offered

Introduction to Hinduism—Ritual, Yoga, Caste and Gender

3) Consultant Prometheus Television and The History Channel

Spring 2016

1) Lecturer, Religious Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

The Eranos Workshops: History and Theory of the “New” Comparative Religion in the Modern Academy

2) Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

History of Buddhism

3) Consultant Prometheus Television and The History Channel

Fall 2015

1) Lecturer, Religious Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Crazy Saints: Spiritual Epiphany and Social Dissidence

2) Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

Hindu Festivals: Fall & Winter

Spring 2015

1) Lecturer, Religious Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Orientalism & Esoterism in American Popular Culture

2) Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

History of Buddhism

Fall 2014

1) Lecturer, Religious Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Religion of Science Fiction

2) Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

The Religion of South Asia

Spring 2014

Lecturer, Religious Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Secret Societies & the Allure of Secret Knowledge

Fall 2013

1) Lecturer, Center for the Arts, Religion & Education, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Courses Offered

South Asian Religion in American Popular Culture

2) Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

Hindu Festivals: Fall & Winter

Spring 2013

Lecturer, Department of the Humanities & Religious Studies, California State University, Sacramento

Courses Offered

Hindu Festivals: Spring & Summer

Fall 2012

Lecturer, Religious Studies & South Asian Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Religion of South India

Spring 2012

Lecturer, Religious Studies & South Asian Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Introduction to Hinduism

Lecturer, South Asian Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

India Through the Writer's Eye

Fall 2011

Lecturer, Religious Studies & South Asian Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Religion of South India

Spring 2011

Lecturer, Religious Studies & South Asian Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Religion of South India

Summer 2011

Co-Instructor, UC Davis Summer Abroad Program

Courses Offered

Palaces of the Gods: Texts, Temples & Tombs in India

Summer 2010

Assistant Instructor, UC Davis Summer Abroad Program

Courses Offered

Palaces of the Gods: Texts, Temples & Tombs in India

Fall 2010

Lecturer, Religious Studies & South Asian Studies Dept, UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Introduction to Hinduism

Fall 2009

Lecturer, Religious Studies Dept., UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

South Asian Religion in American Popular Culture

Spring 2009

Lecturer, Religious Studies Dept., UC Berkeley

Courses Offered

Introduction to Hinduism

Fall 2005-Spring 2008

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Clarkson University

Courses Offered

Comparative Indo-European Mythology
Orientalism in Pulp and Comics
Our Imagined Lives (Theoretical Survey of Nationalism and Orientalism)

Fall 2003-Spring 2005

Adjunct Instructor, St Lawrence University

Courses Offered

Introduction to the Study of Religion
Arthurian Romances and Hindu Epic Literature
Imagining Identity (Theoretical Survey of Nationalism and Orientalism)
Comparative Myth and Folklore

Fall 1999-Fall 2002

Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley

Courses Offered

The Great Books of India
Religions of Early India
Religion in Modern South Asia
Religions of South India

Spring 2000

Graduate Research Assistant, University of California, Berkeley

Assisted Professor George Hart in developing instructional materials for Tamil Language Teaching for the Web

Fall 1998

Web site developer for Tamil Language and Literature at University of California, Berkeley

Graduate Research Assistant, University of California, Berkeley

Assisted Professor George Hart in compiling a bibliography of primary and secondary sources on early South Indian Religion

PUBLICATIONS (All Publications are Peer Reviewed):

Little, Layne. *Hindu Temples*. Oxford: Oxford Institute of Hindu Studies,

“Lokeśvara Statues, Maheśvara Mūrtis: The Repurposing of Forgotten Buddhist Deities as Hindu Icons in Tamil Nadu.” Forthcoming 2017

“Pre-Gupta Visions of Vishnu in the Art and Coinage of South and Southeast Asia.” In Archana Venkatesan (ed.). *Vaiṣṇavism*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Forthcoming 2017

“Bhogar’s Journey to the Tomb of Tomes: Siddha “Folk”-Literature, Invention & Tamil Print Culture in the Late 19th Century.” Forthcoming 2017

Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Brad Nystrom, Robert Platzner & Erin Stiles. *Invitation to Asian Religions*. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017 (Forthcoming Fall)

Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Brad Nystrom, Robert Platzner & Erin Stiles. *Invitation to Western Religions*. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015 (Forthcoming Fall)

“Hinduism” and “Buddhism.” Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Brad Nystrom, Robert Platzner & Erin Stiles. *Invitation to World Religions*. Revised 3rd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017 (Forthcoming Fall)

Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Brad Nystrom, Robert Platzner & Erin Stiles. *Invitation to Asian Religions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015

Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Brad Nystrom, Robert Platzner & Erin Stiles. *Invitation to Western Religions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015

“Hinduism” and “Buddhism.” Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Brad Nystrom, Robert Platzner & Erin Stiles. *Invitation to World Religions*. Revised 2nd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015

Book review: Richard D. Mann. *The Rise of Mahāseṇa: The Transformation of Skanda-Kartthikeya in North India from the Kuṣāṇa to Gupta Empires*. In: *International Journal of Hindu Studies*. March, 2014

“Avvaiyar” and “Nayanar” entries in Knut A. Jacobsen. Ed. *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Hinduism*. Leiden: Brill, 2009-2012

“Hinduism” and “Buddhism.” Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Brad Nystrom, Robert Platzner & Erin Stiles. *Invitation to World Religions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012

Book review: Christopher Key Chapple. *Yoga and the Luminous: Patañjali's Spiritual Path to Freedom*. In: *International Journal of Hindu Studies*. Vol. 14, #2-3, pp. 313-315, 2010

"Forward." Ilakkuvanar, Maraimalai. *A Cluster of Stars (A Collection of Modern Tamil Poems)*. Chennai, Manivasagar, 2008

"An Anachronistic Arruppatai for Lord Muruka: Mapping Historical Ruptures in the Saiva Literary Imagination." *Tropes, Territories and Competing Realities*. Toronto: The Toronto South Asian Review, 2007

"An Introduction to the Tamil Siddhas: Tantra, Alchemy, Poetics and Heresy Within the Context of the Wider Tamil Saiva World." In *Indian Folklife*, Fall, 2003

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION:

"Peter Piper in Bengal: Orientalism and India's Place in the History of American Comic Books" Manuscript under preparation for submission to *Material Religion*

A Guide to a Guide to a God: A translation of the Tirumurukarruppatai. Manuscript under preparation for submission to the Oxford University Press, AAR Texts and Translations Series

Bowl Full of Sky: The Contemporary Commodification of a Saint, Story-making and the Many Lives of the Siddha Bhogar. Manuscript under preparation

INVITED PAPERS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Spring 2015

"Tantra's Place in New Religious Movements." UC Davis: Department of Comparative Religion. (INVITED LECTURE)

Spring 2012

"Diabolical Superheroes." UC Davis: Department of Comparative Religion. (INVITED LECTURE)

"Monkey in Myth & Folklore." UC Berkeley: Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies. (INVITED LECTURE)

Winter 2010

"Christianity in India." UC Davis: Department of Comparative Religion. (INVITED LECTURE)

August 2010

"Mamallapuram." UC Davis: Study Abroad in India. (INVITED LECTURE)

February 2010

"South Asian Religion in American Popular Culture." Jawaharlal Nehru Univeristy, New Delhi. (INVITED LECTURE)

April 2009

"Bhogar's Journey to the Tomb of Tomes: Siddha "Folk"-Literature, Invention & Tamil Print Culture in the Late 19th Century." *The Fifth University of California, Berkeley Tamil Conference on Pandya Nadu* (INVITED PAPER)

November 2008

"A Genealogy of the American Mystic Superhero: Pop-cultural Encounters with Yogis, Lamas and Secret Masters in the High Himalayas." AAR, Chicago

September 2008

"A Typology of the Mystic Superhero: American Pop-cultural Encounters with Yogis, Lamas and Secret Masters in the High Himalayas." CSRI (Conference for the Study of Religion in India) Knoxville

April 2008

"A Typology of the Mystic Superhero: American Pop-cultural Encounters with Yogis, Lamas and Secret Masters in the High Himalayas." *Authorizing Inscriptions: Religion, Aesthetics, and Global Media. University of California, Davis*

February 2008

"Pop Nautch Exotica—Representations of the 'Sinister' Dancing-Girl in American Popular Culture 1927-1954." French Institute, Pondicherry (INVITED LECTURE)

September 2007

"Strange Journeys, Drowning Shastras and Dead Gods: Fantastic Travelogues of a Tamil Siddha." Sorbonne, Paris (INVITED LECTURE)

March 2007

"Tales Told of Palani: The Narratives that have shaped Pilgrimage Practice at the Sri Dandayudhapani Temple." Amherst College, Massachusetts (INVITED LECTURE)

May 2006

"An Anachronistic Arrupadai for Lord Muruga: Mapping Historical Ruptures in the Saiva Literary Imagination." *University of Toronto Tamil Conference* (INVITED PAPER)

April 2006

"Nakkārar as a Bhakti Poet: Re-imagining the Tirumurukarruppatai in the Time of the Cholas." *The Second University of California, Berkeley Tamil Conference on the Cholas* (INVITED PAPER)

March 2006

"All About Muruga: History and Development of the Worship of Muruga in South India." McGill University, Montreal, Canada (INVITED LECTURE)

April 2005

Principal Organizer of the *First University of California, Berkeley Tamil Conference: Koyil: Invention, Imagination, Transmission and the Temples of Tamil Nadu*

April 2005

"Cinema Siddhas: Tamilizing Hollywood's Yogi-Christ in Rajnikanth's *Baba*." *AAR-EIR at McGill University* in Montreal, Canada

October 2004

"Cinema Siddhas: Tamilizing Hollywood's Yogi-Christ in Rajnikanth's *Baba*," *34th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison*

February 2004

"Poison Icons and Modern Tales of the Deathless Body: Narrative Change and the Commodification of Murukan at Palani" *19th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of California, Berkeley*

October 2003

"Poison Icons and Modern Tales of the Deathless Body: Narrative Change and the Commodification of Murukan at Palani," *32nd Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison*

February 2001

"A Slip of the Mother Tongue," *15th Annual South Asia Conference, University of California, Berkeley*

March 2000

"Mad Exorcists and Lovesick Heroines: The Role of Murukan's Priest in Cankam Literature" at a special conference sponsored by the Bay Area Tamil Sangam

February 2000

"The Dispossessed Velan: Textual Innovation and Cultural Defamation," *14th Annual South Asia Conference, University of California, Berkeley*

February 1999

"The Guide to the Guide to a God: The Canonization of the *Tirumurukarruppatai* and the Re-invention of a Saiva Chola Nation," *13th Annual South Asia Conference at University of California, Berkeley*

Spring 1998

"The Twilight Language of the Tamil Siddhas," *University of California, Berkeley Graduate Student Colloquium*

Spring 1997

"From the Tamil Siddhas to Saiva Siddhanta: An Introduction to the Tamil Siddhas," *Symposium on World Religions, University of Utah*

HONORS AND AWARDS:**Spring 2012**

University of California, Berkeley *Faculty Course Development Grant*

Fall 2003

University of California, Berkeley *Dean's Normative Time Grant*

Finalist. *Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Writing Fellowship*

Fall 2002

University of California, Berkeley Tamil Chair Short Term Fellowship for documentary project entitled "Hanuman in America"

Jan 2002- May 2002; Jan 2003-Aug 2003

Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship for dissertation research in India

Dec 2001

A.I.I.S. Dissertation Research Fellowship for one year of research in India. (Declined)

Fall 2001

South and Southeast Asian Studies Departmental Fellowship

Summer 2000

University of California, Berkeley Tamil Chair Fellowship

Spring 2000

University of California, Berkeley Departmental Fellowship

Fall 1999-Spring 2000

Regents' Fellowship

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) in Tamil

Summer 1999

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) in Hindi

Fall 1998-Spring 1999

A.I.I.S Language Fellowship in Tamil, Madurai India. (Declined)

Summer 1998

A.I.I.S. Language Fellowship in Tamil, Madurai, India

Fall 1997

Fellowship for Outstanding Entering Graduate Student, University of California, Berkeley

Spring 1995

Phi Eta Sigma Honors Fellowship

LANGUAGES:

Tamil (Cankam, Medieval and Modern), Hindi, Pali, Sanskrit

MEMBERSHIPS:

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Association of Asian Studies (AAS)

Indian Student Association, Sac State, Faculty Advisor 2016

Regional Director of South Asian Collections for *the Lost and Endangered Religions Project*

United Religions Initiative (URI)

Board of Advisors of the Academy of Arcana

Member of St. Lawrence University's Multifaith Council, 2003-2005

RESEARCH REFERENCES:

Prof. Vasudha Dalmia

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New Delhi 110001

India

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Prof. Steven Hopkins (Dissertation Committee)

Department of Religion

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Prof. Indira Peterson

Asian Studies Program

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TEACHING REFERENCES

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California State University, Sacramento
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nystromb@csus.edu